Numb. 151

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

—— Ni vis Boni
In ipſa ineſſet Forma, hæc Formam extinguerent. Ter.

From *Saturday March* 25. to *Tueſday March* 28. 1710.

From my own Apartment, March 27.

WHEN Artiſts would expoſe their Diamonds to an Advantage, they uſually ſet them to Show in little Caſes of black Velvet. By this Means, the Jewels appear in their true and genuine Luſtre, while there is no Colour that can infect their Brightneſs, or give a falſe Caſt to the Water. When I was at the Opera the other Night, the Aſſembly of Ladies in Mourning made me conſider them in the ſame Kind of View. A Dreſs wherein there is ſo little Variety, ſhows the Face in all its natural Charms, and makes one diffe from another, only as it is more or leſs beautiful. Painters are ever careful of offending againſt a Rule which is ſo eſſential in all juſt Repreſentation. The chief Figure muſt have the ſtrongeſt Point of Light, and not be injured by any gay Colourings that may draw away the Attention upon any leſs conſiderable Part of the Picture. The preſent Faſhion obliges every body to be dreſſed with Propriety, and makes the Ladies Faces the principal Objects of Sight. Every beautiful Perſon ſhines out in all the Excellence with which Nature has adorned her. Gawdy Ribands and glaring Colours being now out of Uſe, the Sex has no Opportunity given 'em to diſfigure themſelves, which they ſeldom fail to do whenever it lies in their Power. When a Woman comes to her Glaſs, ſhe does not employ her Time in making her ſelf look more advantagiouſly what ſhe really is, but endeavours to be as much another Creature as ſhe poſſibly can. Whether this happens becauſe they ſtay ſo long, and attend their Work ſo diligently, that they forget the Faces and Perſons which they firſt ſat down with, or whatever it is, they ſeldom riſe from the Toilet the ſame Women they appeared when they began to dreſs. What Jewel can the charming *Cleora* place in her Ears, that can pleaſe her Beholders ſo much as her Eyes. The Cluſter of Diamonds upon the Breaſt can add no Beauty to the fair Cheſt of Ivory which ſupports it. It may indeed tempt a Man to ſteal a Woman, but never to love her. Let *Thaleſtris* change her ſelf into a Motly Party-coloured Animal; the Pearl Necklace, the Flowered Stomacher, the Artificial Noſegay, and Shaded Furbelow, may be of Uſe to attract the Eye of the Beholder, and turn it from the Imperfections of her Features and Shape. But if Ladies will take my Word for it, (and as they dreſs to pleaſe Men, they ought to conſult our Fancy rather than their own in this Particular) I can aſſure them, there is nothing touches our Imagination ſo much as a beautiful Woman in a plain Dreſs. There might be more agreeable Ornaments found in our own Manufacture, than any that riſe out of the Looms of *Perſia*.

This I know is a very harſh Doctrine to Womankind, who are carried away with every Thing that is ſhowy, and with what delights the Eye, more than any other Species of Living Creatures whatſoever. Were the Minds of the Sex laid open, we ſhould find the chief Idea in one to be a Tippet, in another a Muff, in a third a Fan, and in a fourth a Fardingal. The Memory of an old Viſiting Lady is ſo filled with Gloves, Silks and Ribands, that I can look upon it as nothing elſe but a Toy-ſhop. A Matron of my Acquaintance complaining of her Daughter's Vanity, was obſerving, that ſhe had all of a ſudden held up her Head higher than ordinary, and taken an Air that ſhowed a ſecret Satisfaction in her ſelf, mixed with a Scorn of others. I did not know, ſays my Friend, what to make of the Carriage of this fantaſtical Girl, till I was informed by her elder Siſter, that ſhe had a Pair of ſtrip'd Garters on. This odd Turn of Mind often makes the Sex unhappy, and diſpoſes them to be ſtruck with every Thing that makes a Show, however trifling and ſuperficial. Many a Lady has fetched a Sigh at the Toſs of a Wig, and been ruin'd by the Tapping of a Snuff-Box. It is impoſſible to deſcribe all the Execution that was done by the Shoulder-Knot while that Faſhion prevailed, or to reckon up all the Virgins that have fallen a Sacrifice to a Pair of Fringed Gloves. A ſincere Heart has not made half ſo many Conqueſts as an open Waſtcoat; and I ſhould be glad to ſee an able Head make ſo good a Figure in a Woman's Company as a Pair of Red Heels. A *Grecian* Hero, when he was asked, Whether he could play upon the Lute? Thought he had made a very good Reply, when he anſwered, No; But I can make a great City of a little one. Notwithſtanding his boaſted Wiſdom, I appeal to the Heart of any Toaſt in Town, whether ſhe would not think the Lutaniſt preferable to the Stateſ-

Statesman. I do not speak this out of any Aversion that I have to the Sex. On the contrary, I have always had a Tenderness for them; but I must confess, it troubles me very much to see the Generality of them place their Affections on improper Objects, and give up all the Pleasures of Life for Gugaws and Trifles.

Mrs. *Margery Bickerstaff*, my Great Aunt, had a Thousand Pounds to her Portion, which our Family was desirous of keeping among themselves, and therefore used all possible Means to turn off her Thoughts from Marriage. The Method they took was, in any Time of Danger to throw a new Gown or Petticoat in her Way. When she was about Twenty five Years of Age, she fell in Love with a Man of an agreeable Temper and equal Fortune, and would certainly have married him, had not my Grandfather, Sir *Jacob*, dressed her up in a Suit of flowered Sattin; upon which she set so immoderate a Value upon her self, that the Lover was contemned and discarded. In the Fortieth Year of her Age, she was again smitten, but very luckily transferred her Passion to that of a Tippet, which was pretented to her by another Relation who was in the Plot. This, with a white Sarsenet Hood, kept her safe in the Family till Fifty. About Sixty, which generally produces a Kind of latter Spring in amorous Constitutions, my Aunt *Margery* had again a Colt's Tooth in her Head, and would certainly have eloped from the Mansion-House, had not her Brother *Simon*, who was a wise Man and a Scholar, advised to dress her in Cherry-colour'd Riband, which was the only Expedient that could have been found out by the Wit of Man to preserve the Thousand Pounds in our Family, Part of which I enjoy at this Time.

This Discourse puts me in Mind of an Humorist mentioned by *Horace*, called *Eutrapelus*, who, when he designed to do a Man a Mischief, made him a Present of a gay Suit; and brings to my Memory another Passage of the same Author, when he describes the most ornamental Dress that a Woman can appear in with Two Words, *Simplex Munditiis*, which I have quoted for the Benefit of my Female Readers.

Advertisements.

*** PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Isaac Bickerstaff Esq; by Subscriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be seen, and Subscriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall. All Persons that design to subscribe to this Work, are desired to send their Subscriptions with all Expedition, the Book being put to Press, in order to have it publish'd before Easter.

AT the Great Room in York-Buildings, on Friday next, being the last of this Instant March, will be perform'd a Consort of Musick, Vocal and Instrumental, for the Benefit of Mr. Viner. Mr. Holcombe will sing several Italian Cantata's, never yet heard in England; accompanied by Mr. Viner, who will play a new Solo composed on purpose for him, by Mr. Pepusch. Note, There being no Play that Evening at either of the Houses, there will be the best Hands in the Kingdom. And at the Desire of several Ladies of Quality, the Entertainment will begin exactly at Seven a Clock. Tickets are to be had at the Place of Performance.

TO satisfy Gentlemen and Ladies who it is that would impose, in Relation to those Man and Women's Gowns to be sold at the Olive-Tree and Still at Charing-Cross, advertis'd against in the Post Man, with Invitation to Ludgate-Hill; If they please to enquire at any Shop on the said Hill, they may be satisfy'd that there is not a Quarter of the Choice; as there is in the Room at Charing-Cross; nor can they afford so good Pennyworths, because upon Examination, these will be truly found to be the Goods of Persons that failed.

NOtice is hereby given to any of Her Majesty's Seamen or Soldiers, that have or may receive any Defect, as Cataracts, or other Prejudice in their Eyes, in Her Majesty's Service, That they may timely apply themselves to Sir William Read, Her Majesty's Oculist, at his House in Durham-Yard in the Strand, London; where he will constantly be himself or his Lady, that all due Care, Attendance and Medicines, may be given them gratis, as he hath at his own Charge constantly done ever since the Beginning of the War, being above 20 Years: Which charitable Work no Person performs but himself, who hath made many fit for the Service that otherwise would have been useless, and no small Charge to the Government. Note, by his long Course of Practice, and great Experience, he is the only Person that coucheth Cataracts without Pain or much Confinement, and hath a Medicine that prevents Cataracts in the Beginning, and strengthens and preserves the Sight.

*** A Short View of Mr. Whiston's Chronology of the Old Testament, and his Harmony of the Four Evangelists. In which may be seen, by what Steps he has arriv'd to the Height of Impiety he is now at. The Second Edition. With a Postscript about our Rule for keeping Easter; and a Reply to the Remarks of a Dissenter upon the same, published by Mr. Calamy. By John Wright, M. A. Rector of Kirton in Nottinghamshire. Printed for Edm. Parker at the Bible and Crown in Lombard-street near Stocks-Market.

*** This Day is published, A Supplement to Mr. Samuel Puffendorf's Introduction to the History of Europe; containing a succinct, but most exact, Historical Account of several European States and Countries not inserted in the said Introduction; viz. The Lines of the Popes, The Turkish Empire, An Historical Account of the European Tartars, and the Cossacks. With some Historical Observations of Lapland and Greenland. By J. C. M. D. who oblig'd the Publick with Puffendorf's Introduction and Continuation. Printed for W. Taylor at the Ship in Pater-Noster-Row.

*** To be printed by Subscription, The History of the Life and Acts of the most Rev. Father in God, Edm. Grindal, 1st Bishop of London, and 2d Archbishop of York and Canterbury successively, after Q. Elizabeth's Accession to the Crown. Wherein is shewn that most Rev. Prelate's pious and useful Labours in the Reformation and Government of the Church of England. In this History will appear the State of this Church, Succession of its Bishops, Indulgence towards the Churches of Foreigners planted here, and other Affairs relating to Religion in the Time of this Archbishop. Also an Appendix of Original MS. transcribed from the best Archives. By John Strype, M. A. N. B. The Book being now in the Press, all Gentlemen who intend to subscribe to it, are desired to send in their Names before the 20th of April next (at which Time the Book will be deliver'd) to the Author, or John Hartley between the Two Temple Gates in Fleetstreet, where printed Proposals may be had.

*** A Companion to the Altar; shewing the Nature and Necessity of a Sacramental Preparation, in order to our worthy receiving the Holy Communion: Wherein those Fears and Scruples about Eating and Drinking unworthily, and of incurring our own Damnation thereby, are proved groundless and unwarrantable. Unto which are added, Prayers and Meditations, Preparative to a Sacramental Preparation, according to what the Church of England requires from her Communicants. The Sixth Edition. Printed for Edm. Parker at the Bible and Crown in Lombard-street near Stocks-market. Price bound 6d. stitch'd 4d. or 25s. per Hundred. This same Book is bound up with the Common-Prayers of several Sorts, and is to be had at the Place aboveſaid.

A Catalogue of Plate and Goods to be dispos'd of by Way of Lots, at Mrs. Tillman's, near the Nag's-Head in Red-Lion Street, Holborn. 2000 Tickets to be drawn, 9 Blanks to each Prize; to be drawn in 3 Weeks, or sooner if full.

AT Parsons-Green near Fulham, are to be lett, Two new Houses, the one has Four, the other Three Rooms on a Floor, neatly fitted up, with Court-Yards, Gardens, and Kitchen-Gardens, very well planted, and with or without a Coach-House and Stable. Enquire at the next Door.

IF any Body has found a dark Sable Tippet, a little changed Colour by being wore, made up round, which was lost in the Peeresses Seat in Westminster-hall, upon Friday the 3d of March, and will bring it to White's Chocolate-house in St. James's Street, or to Tom's Coffee-House in Covent-Garden, shall have Two Guineas Reward.

HEyden in Essex, the Mansion House late of Sir Peter Soame, Bar. deceased, situate in a pleasant Country Seat, 16 Miles from Newmarket, 30 from London, and 9 from Cambridge, with the Stables, Outhouses, Gardens, Bowling-Green, and any Quantity of Land, more or less, is to be lett furnished or unfurnished, at a reasonable Rent. Enquire of Mrs. Chute at her House in Berkley-street, Piccadilly; or of Mr. Enoc Cooper at the Blue Bear in Holborn, where Particulars are to be had.

LOST on Saturday last, the 29th Instant, from the Peacock Inn in Clare-Market, a large white Spanish Dog, his Head Liver Colour, with some White in his Face, tann'd Eyebrows, and one large Liver-colour Spot at the Root of his Stern. Whoever brings him to Mr. Collins, Her Majesty's Ironmonger, in the Strand, near St. Martin's-Lane End, shall have 20s. Reward.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertisements are taken in.